International conference on Global Warming

2187. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he attended an international conference on Global Warming at Buenos Aires, recently; if so, the salient features and the outcome thereof; and

(b) what steps his Ministry had taken on the deliberations of Rio easter Summit to project India's point of view on the subject in recent summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The 4th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held during November 2—13, 1998 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Conference considered the various issues relating to implementation of the commitments by the Parties under the UNFCCC and issues emerging out of its Kyoto Protocol mechanisms namely Clean Development Mechanism, Emission Trading and Implementation of projects among developed countries. The Conference decided upon the elements of a work programme on the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms.

(b) India underlined that in accordance with various Rio Principles, Agenda 21 and the UNFCCC itself, the first and overriding priority of developing countries was social and economic development and poverty eradication. At the same time, India projected the implementation of national programmes for promoting sustainable development including enhancement of energy and production efficiency, clean fuels, renewable energy technologies, afforestation and wasteland development in the form of a document titled "India: Sustainable Development"

Policy on Environment Protection

2188. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's policy on environment protection; and

(b) the steps taken to make clean and green environment throughout the Indian cities and towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government policy on the environment has been enunciated in the National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development (1992), the Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution (1992), and the National Forest Policy (1988). The policy is given effect through a well established statutory framework and various programmes implemented by the Central and State governments, Polution Control Boards/Committees, governmental and non-governmental agencies.

The steps taken by the Government to improve the environment in the country are:—

(1) The Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution;

(2) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.

(3) Low lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned 4 cities with effect from 1st April